

### SOCIAL INSURANCE.

At this date nobody can tell what will happen to Senate Constitutional Amendment No. 26, when it is voted on by citizens of this state next November. Most people vote against amendments they do not quite understand, and unless a vigorous propaganda is made for this amendment between now and November, the medical profession may rest assured that the Christian Science and insurance interests will attend to its defeat.

Insurance people oppose health insurance, they claim, not because they think it is necessarily bad, but because they fear the invasion of the state into all branches of the insurance field. Many large commercial organizations take the same view.

Furthermore, many of us are individualists and can see no reason why the state should invade so many fields of private endeavor. We are willing to recognize the need of government control and management of many industries during war-times, but are not yet convinced that all this will be best in days of peace.

But should the amendment carry, the legislature will have a busy time framing a health insurance bill, or disfiguring beyond recognition any proposed bill. Prohibition will probably be the big absorbing question, the one big legislative scrap. And even if a health insurance bill be proposed, the legislature may vote it down. If a bill passes and ignores Christian Science, this cult is apt to ask for a referendum. If a bill recognizing Christian Science should pass, there surely will be a request for a referendum. So that, all in all, health insurance is not yet upon us!

But in the meantime read the report of your Committee on Health Insurance. Read the transactions of your House of Delegates. Study them. Make up your minds as to what you are going to do in this matter. Then write and tell us. We are all interested.

### EDITORIAL COMMENT.

You are reminded that the JOURNAL is right up to date now on manuscripts and the editor wishes to receive papers from all parts of the state, prepared for publication. To insure publication, it is only necessary to have something to say, to say it concisely and then stop, and to type it with attention to the rules of all manuscripts for publication.

Even yet there are vacancies in the list of county editors. Turn to the first page and see if your county is represented. Then turn to the County Society columns and see if your editor has done his duty.

The burden of proof on every doctor not in uniform these days is to show cause why he is

not. Every doctor in civilian attire should consider himself under suspicion unless he has definite and really valid reasons.

In *The Indian Journal of Medical Research* for July, 1917, Lane records the curious fact that an autopsy on a tiger which had never eaten human flesh, showed the presence of the human type of hookworm. He states, however, that this will have no bearing on the methods now used in the eradication of human hookworm!

When other considerations are equal, members of the California State Society of Medicine should make a special point to patronize firms which advertise in the Journal and, moreover, should tell the firm where the advertisement was seen. It is a small matter for the individual doctor, it is a large matter in making the Journal more efficient.

The societies of Imperial, Lassen-Plumas, Merced, Placer, San Benito, Tehama, Tuolumne and Yuba-Sutter counties have not yet elected county editors for the Journal staff. This should be done at once. Much devolves on the county editors in developing the Journal. Do not delay longer. Elect your editor. If you already have one, notice how he is representing your society in the Journal.

Your particular attention is called to the annual meeting of the American Medical Association which convenes in Chicago, June 10-14. Those who are going should have made reservations before this date, but will find hotel lists and other information in the Journal A. M. A., March 30, 1918, et seq. The location, the critical time in medical military affairs, and the character of the program prepared, indicate the most successful and worthwhile meeting ever held.

The Food Administration advises garbage disposal by way of hog feeding. The pork from garbage-fed hogs is said to be equal to the best corn-fed pork. The outlay for plant and equipment is small as compared with the necessities for incineration of garbage. Here indeed is a chance for effective food salvage. The loss of food in garbage is still considerable, certainly much more than it should be. In any case, the garbage can well be turned into pork.

In one respect, Lloyd George and the Kaiser seem in agreement. Says the former: "We are fighting Germany; Austria and drink and, as far as I can see, the greatest of these deadly foes is drink." Says the latter: "The nation that will win in this war will be the one which is the most sober." It is time we seriously consider prohibition as a war measure of first importance, from the food, the economic and the public health points of view. There seems no doubt that the major question at the state election this fall will be that of prohibition, and here as in all public-spirited measures, the medical profession should lead.